

Dated March 22nd 1825

By
An
Inaugural Essay
on
Acute Hepatitis

By
Lawrence A. W. Roane
of Virginia

at least 1000

in the same place

justly supposed

uninhabited

island

about 1000 feet

square

This disease is described by Dr. Cullen.
Fever, tension, and pain either pungent or
obtuse in the right hypochondrium, pain at
the clavicle, and top of the right shoulder, the
patient lying with difficulty on the left side;
dyspnoea; a dry cough; vomiting, and hiccup.

All of these symptoms are rarely
met with in the same case; it is necessary,
however, to mention in the definition of this
disease, symptoms which only occasionally
attend; because its constant symptoms are
not sufficient to distinguish it. On this
account some authors rank jaundice among
the diagnostic symptoms, but its presence
is not sufficiently frequent to affect much
in the diagnosis.

The Liver resembles most other parts of
the body, it subject to two species of inflam-
mation, the acute and chronic; and it has
been generally supposed, that these varieties
of the disease, consist in fact of a difference
in the absolute seat of the inflammation.

It has been suggested by some Physicians,

that the inflammation is of the acute form, when the enveloping membrane of the Liver is affected; and of the chronic, when the parenchyma, or substance of the organ itself is too highly excited; while others have conceived, that the inflammation is of the acute form, when the extremities of the Hepatic artery are particularly affected; and of the chronic, when the branches of the Hepatic vein, or vena porta (which conveys the principal portion of blood to the Liver) is the seat of morbid action; it is of very little importance, however, in a practical point of view, which of these opinions is correct.

The acute species, by its active operation, and rapid influence, unless quickly counteracted, soon prostrates the energies of life; the chronic by its slow and insidious progress, gives a check to the enjoyment of health, and gradually undermines the constitution, without immediate alarm, until the evil has proceeded so far at too often

to haggle recovery. To the former, or acute forms of this disease, I shall limit this essay.

Independent of the causes producing other inflammations, such as the application of cold, external injuries from contusions or blows &c. this disease may be occasioned by violent exercise, by intense summer heats, by long continued intermittent, and remissive fevers, by high living, and an impudent use of venous and spirituous liquors, (but more particularly the latter; (perhaps there is no other of the phlegmasia, so frequently excited by the use of spirituous liquors, as Hepatitis; its frequency in India, is ascribed by Bontius, and others, to the same use of arrack;) the various cold concretions of the liver, are also ranked among the causes of this disease.

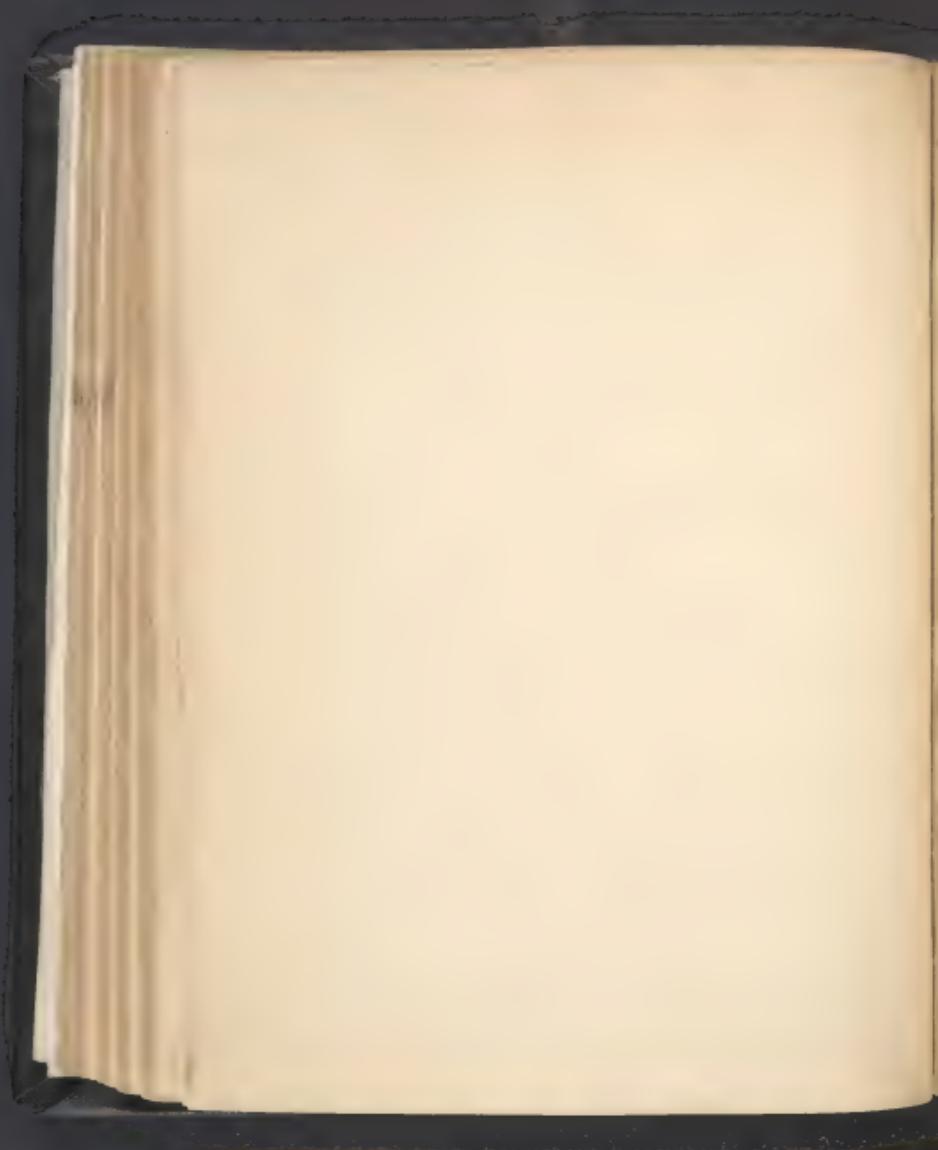
In warm climates, this viscus is more apt to be affected, than any other part of the body; probably, as supposed by Dr. Thomas, upon the increased secretion of

bile which takes place, when the blood is thrown on the mucous parts, by an exposure to cold, or from the bile becoming acid, and thereby exciting an irritation in the part. Dr Johnson ascribes it to cutaneous hepatic sympathy Dr. The disease is more frequent in warm, than in the cold or temperate climates.

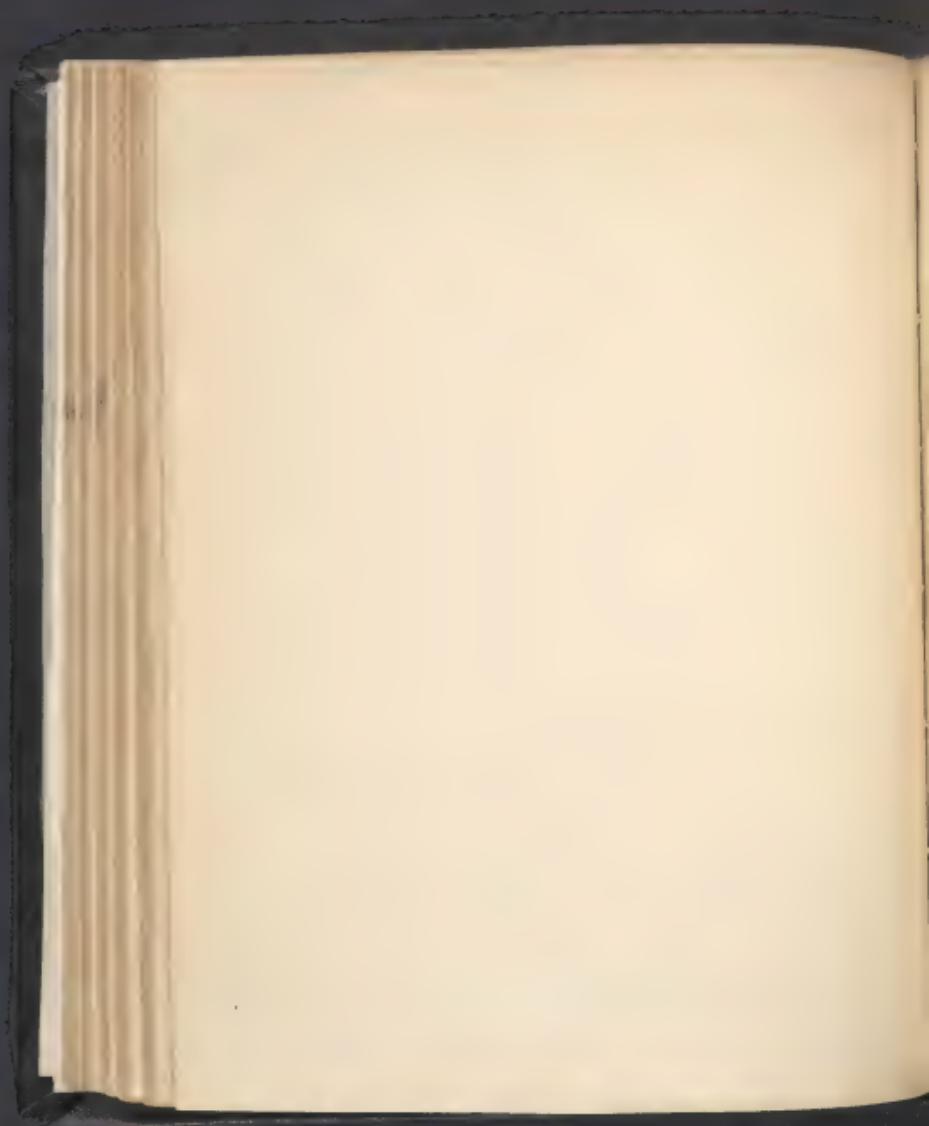
The symptoms of Acute Hepatitis, generally commence with rigors, or chivings followed by a paroxysm of pain in the right side, which is felt also under the margin of the ribs, shooting more particularly in the direction of the back, and to the shoulder-blade; const;; oppression in the respiration, nausea, sickness, often with a vomiting of apparently bilious matter, accompanied with considerable fever, great watchfulness, and occasional delirium; extreme thirst, the tongue generally covered with a white crust, extending also to the mouth, and fauces; depression of spirits; sometimes headache; loss of appetite,

and difficulty of breathing, except on the upper side; yet sometimes now and then
comes, when the patient is unable to lie on
the side; present also on the region of
the liver, where there is usually some tension,
induces constrictive sense of pain, and
leads up to cough, and the cough is more
generally dry than moist; the bowels
are frequently irregular, though often
slow, than otherwise; the urine usually
is small, watery, is of a dark color
and often impregnated with bile and attended
with a scalding sensation; the pulse is
short, and strong, sometimes exceeding the
natural and usually slower, in number
at least it is not so; it is
occasionally altered to a very violent
degree when the patient lying ready
on the common seat. The union of the
processes of the upper lobe on the right
liver.

In this disease, as well as in others
it is not always true that the signs of



the same degree of intensity, as it is, we
here consider. It is, in some cases, the
size of a mole in other sayings, palpable;
in these instances, the pain is acute
and violent. In other occasions of, per-
haps, three fourths of, cases, the
pain has gone away with, or is
soon past with. But in every circum-
stance of the size of one, the disease
can be supposed to more or less affect
according to the degree of sensibility in the
part affected. When the most acute
cessing of the pain is caused with, or
in lesions which are at a distance.
In persons the pain, less, and diffi-
culty of touching an animal more noted
than when the anterior part, scutum,
or the concave anterior part is affected;
both owners, and medical men, probably
have drawn a distinction between the
sensitive that occur, when the inflammation
implies the concave part of the lion,
and those that are present when the de-
pressive affects the concave. The second



in all stages of the disease, but
which is always the earliest and the
most general of all the other signs
the pain of course is at the first stage.

It is however not very severe
indeed, the main disease of the
body is the ulceration, so far as
concerning the disease the beginning is the
rise of the ulcerations. In this case
it is of the first importance that
the ulcer be the ulceration is often
seen, so that, however is the consequent

fatal result of an immediate
rise, either alone this disease, however
from the nose, or hemorrhoidal
ulcer, or likewise ulcerations, or any
other ulceration of course the following a
slight sediment sometimes very little.

The stone is the stone that
comes to bear on the surface of
the ulcer the stone is at all times.

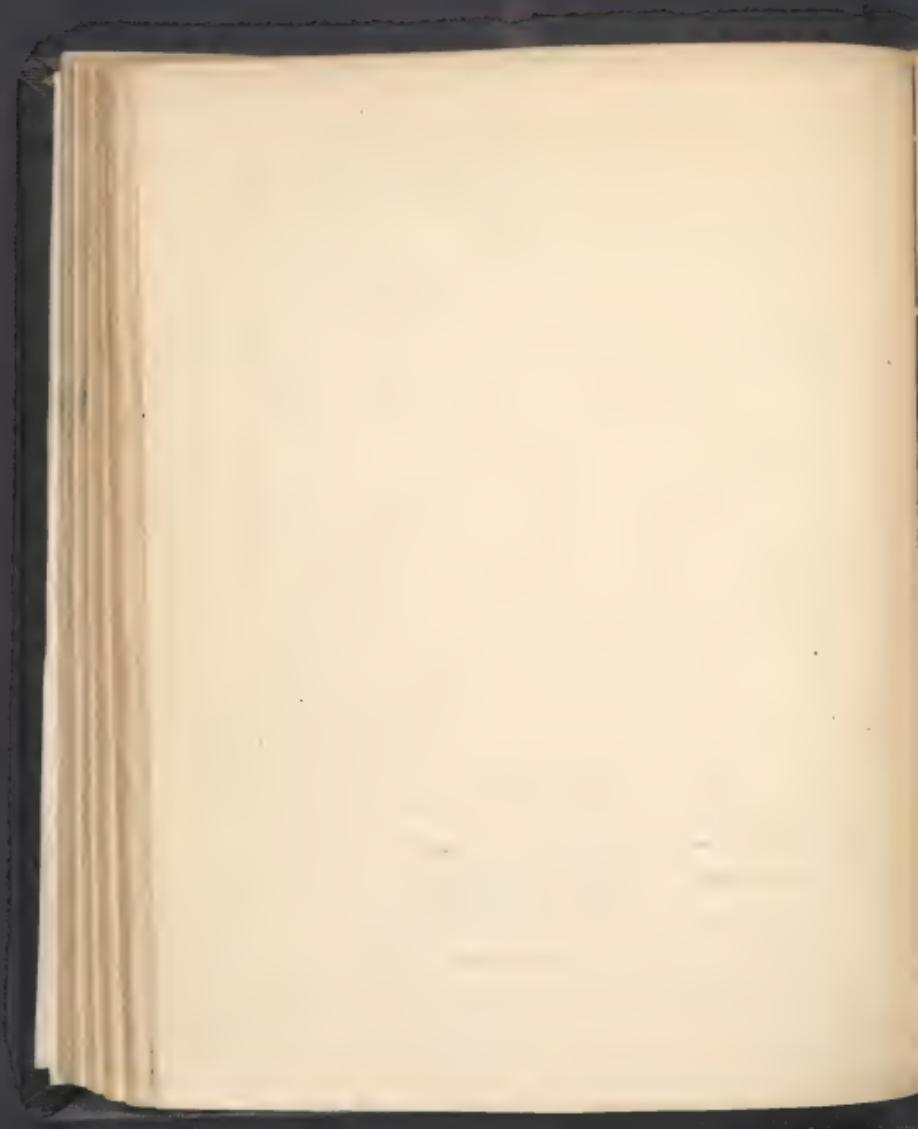
This disease is of course a disease of
the stomach and the same effects.



into the stomach. In the calcareous of the
coastal and by the coast being inac-
companied by striction, and by a
high degree of dryness. It may also
be distinguishable from inflammation of the
stomach in most instances, by the
sense of taste gastric irritation, and
sight which render gastritis so compara-
tively unconfusing a conclusion. The
epicrural symptoms, too, in the case now
related of what can be called gastric,
distinguishing gastric striction.

From spasms of the biliary ducts, accom-
panied by impacted calculi, we may
distinguish this disease by the strong
epicrural striction, and many other cir-
cumstances, especially at the beginning;
that, as Dr. Johnson has observed, spasms
will often terminate in, or rather occasion
inflammation, when the treatment must be
the same, as in original hepatitis.

In forming our prognosis of this
disease, we consider it the most favorable

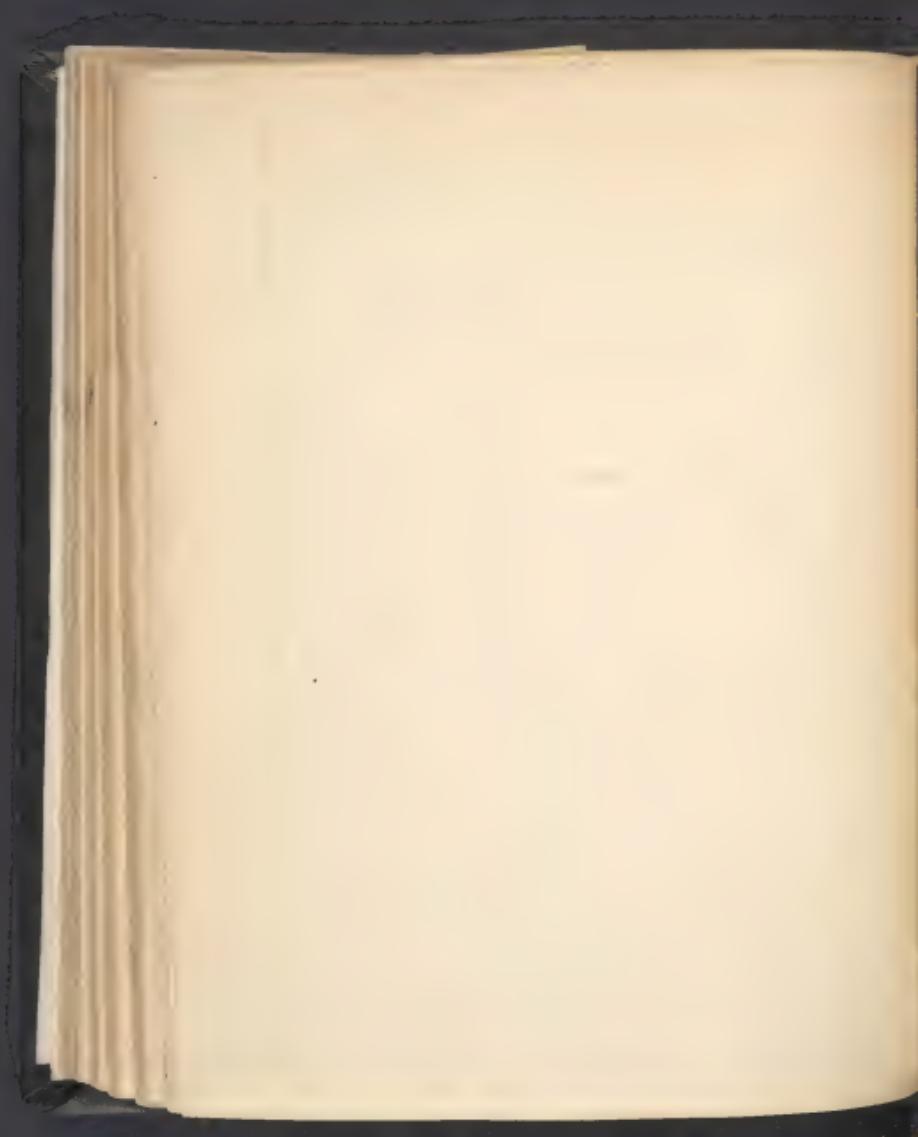


right, a gradual abatement of the previous
symptoms; our inoculation in the common
version, the streak not much reduced
by the remedies, return of the pulse, and
an increase in the heat of the body.

But on the other hand, intensity of
pains in the region of the liver, a yell^o
and purulent stool, considerable heat,
thirst, dry skin, constipation, and a general
rigor denote the most alarming state.

When suppuration has taken place, this
indicates a diminution of power, whether
in the organs, increase of the existing
pathology of liver, fluctuation of the
concrements, prostration of the heart,
and other local symptoms. Continued
respirations, cold extremities, and a failing
pulse indicate prostration.

Post mortem examination, often discover
the liver greatly enlarged, and hard as the stones,
its colour more of a deep purple, than
natural, and its membranes more or less
affected by inflammation. They also



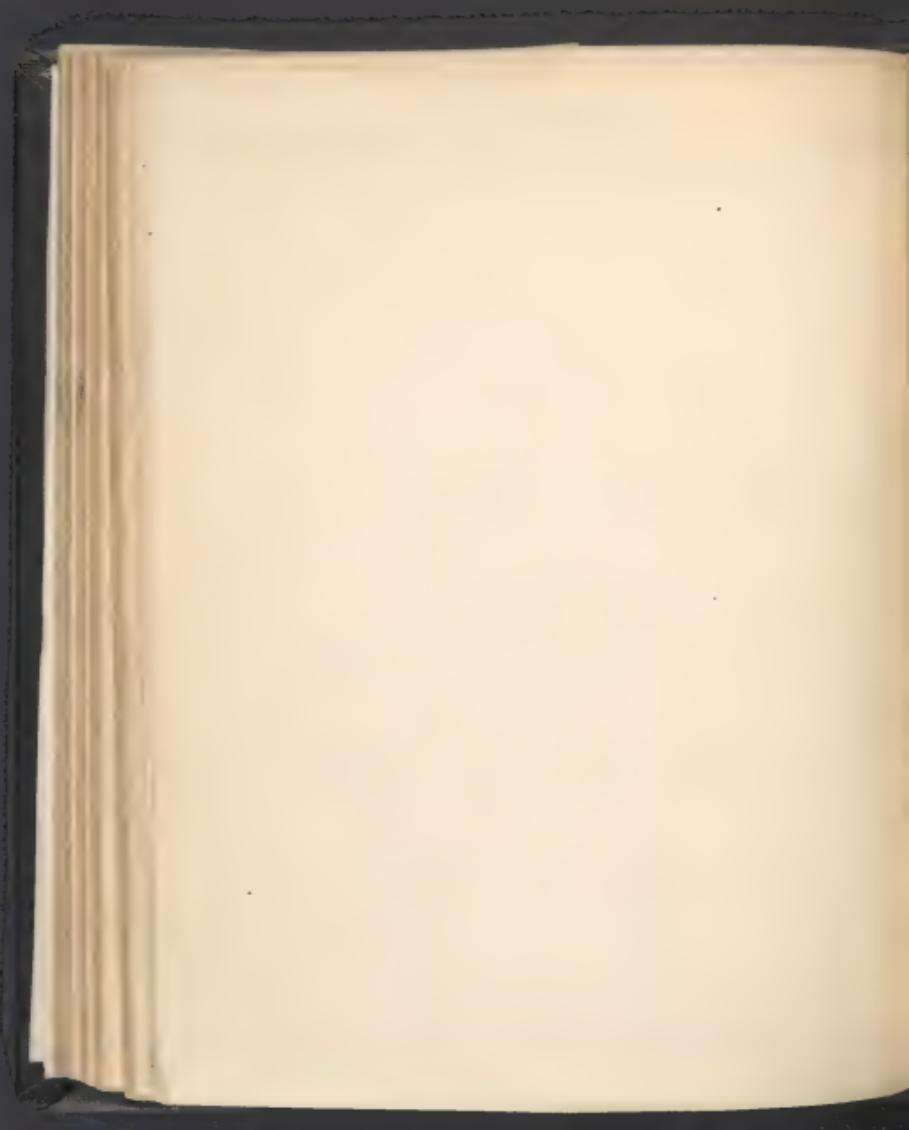
discover adhesions to the neighbouring parts; also tubercles, hydatids, and sometimes large abscesses containing considerable quantities of pus; Biliary Calculi are now and then met with. In a few instances, the liver has been found in a putrid state resembling a Honey comb.

In Communicating the

Treatment of any disease, general principles are above all given; in many instances, certain varieties occur, requiring more application, judgement, experience, and observation; a marked mark of proceeding however, is to be avoided, and should consist of nothing, and habit; hence much must be left to the sense of every practitioner.

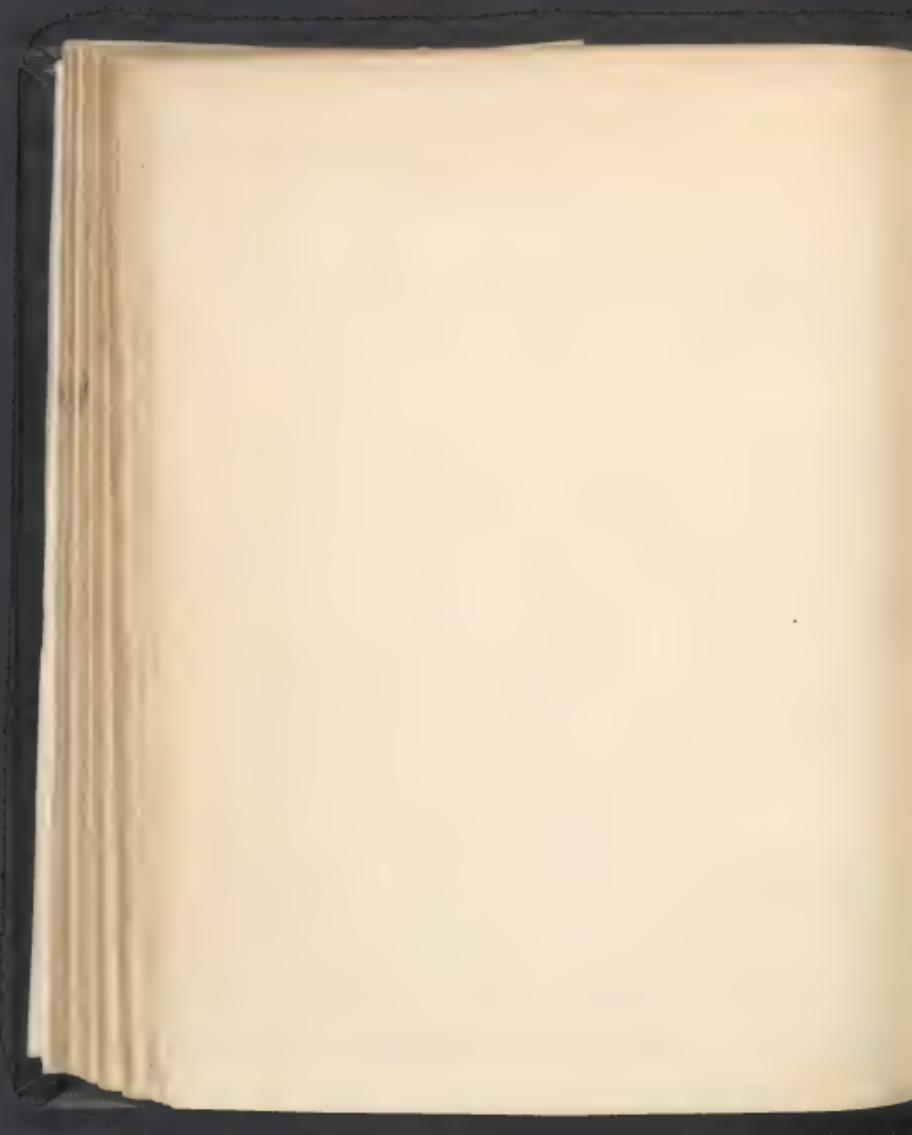
In the treatment of acute inflammations, the usual means of obtaining inflammation, are to be vigorously fumigated, by continually adhering to the antiphlogistic regimen.

General, an & copious bleeding & Lasms are required, copious perspiration should



be most required to, that is to the application
either, the cupping, or the application of
water, over the region of the liver. Should
the severity of the pains, and the increased
vascular action, continue unabated, venes-
sion should be repeated again very
soon; for no time is to be spared, in
arresting the progress of this violently-acute
stage of the disease. By negativing to
bleed under such circumstances, the vice
is elongated, & suppuration ensues.

General bleeding in this disease, has
been disapproved by some writers, and
local depletion by cupping, or leeches,
recommended in all places; this may be
the correct practice in those cases unatt-
ended with much pain, or synchia, unless
the disease has followed a bad intermitting,
or remittent fever, and the patient conseq-
uently left in a cachetic state. but in
those where the pain is acute, the pulse
full and strong, and the febrile thirst,
and heat considerable, copious, and



uricated resection at an early period of the disease will be necessary; the blood should be drawn away at once, in a quantity proportioned to the age and temperament of the patient, and urgency of the symptoms; it should also be evacuated *pleno rivo*; as Physicians have at all times noticed the effect of drawing blood from a limb to relieve in inflammatory diseases.

As co-operating to the same end, Cathartics are advantageously used in this disease; to the moraine, I should give the purge &c; they should be early, and freely administered, and every available means exerted, to enliven the liver of its bilious secretions.

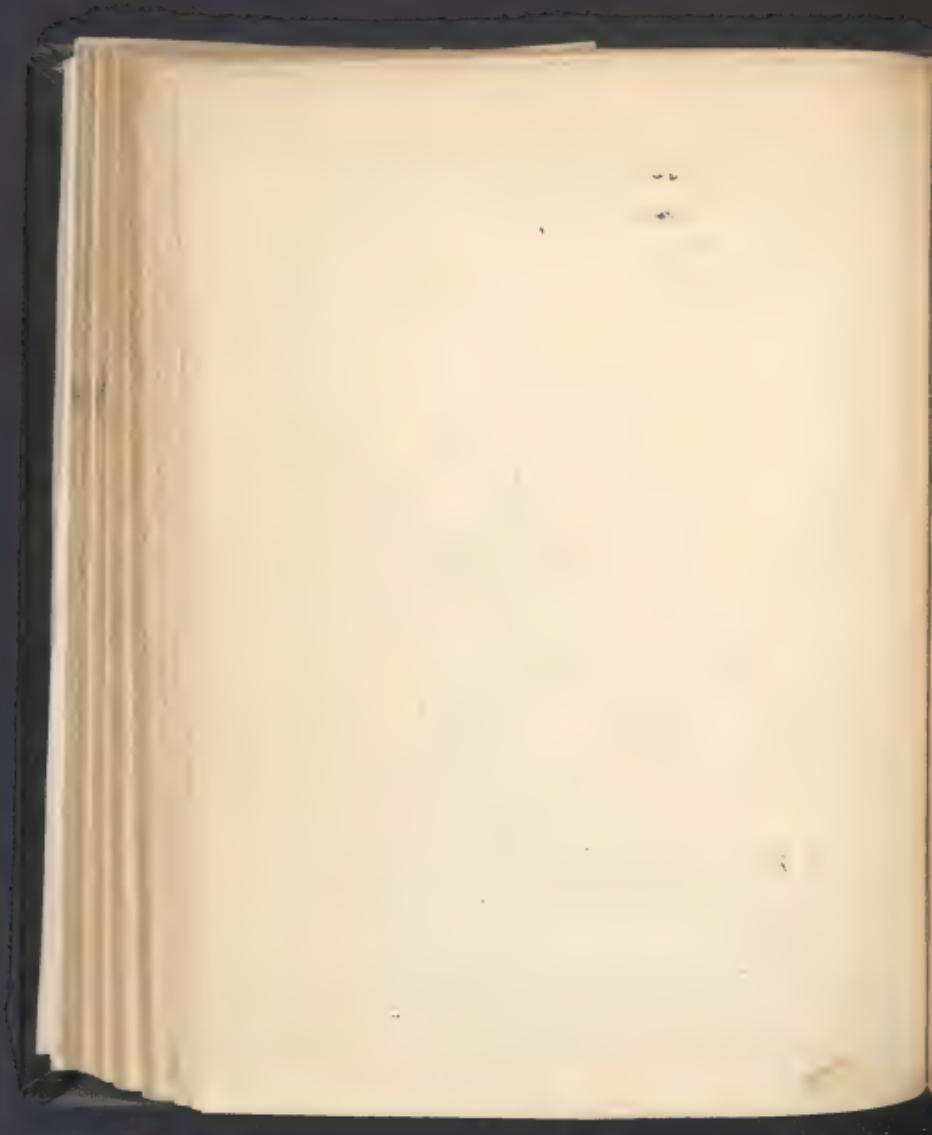
The exhibition of Carbolic acid should not, however, supersede the use of copious mild enemata, which are particularly serviceable, both as a fomentation, and a means of removing irritation, and supporting a discharge from the intestines. Fomentations have been more frequently employed in this disease, than in most of the phlegmasia,



and often attended with considerable adomatia
ago; in as y. several cases, however, each
has been avoided.

Should the sigmoiditis continue unabated, after
the adoption of these measures, the application
of a large blister should be made over
the region of the liver, and should be in so
a disposition ^{that} proportionately to the desired interval,
it should be reapplyed; and all writers on
the subject, recommend a repetition of blisters,
in preference to supporting a discharge from
the same one, by dry stimulating distress.

To these more active measures, should
be uniting the liberal use of refrigerants, such
as solutions of the neutral salts &c; the
free admission of cool air into the apartment
to the patient; and in this, as in the com-
mencement of any acute disease, a farina-
team or gruel diet should be rigidly enjoined,
and animal food positively and unequivocally
forbidden.
It has, ⁱⁿ consequence, been observed often pro-
miceable; and as in other inflammatory



complaints, a diaphoresis may be excited, by moderate doses of Tartarised Potash, to which we may sometimes, with advantage, add nitrate of Potash. It is auxiliary, sedative, and, with a free employment of mild tonics, and cooling agents, have been recommended.

The treatment ought to be pursued with such modifications, as the condition and advancement of the case require.

Should considerable irritation prevail after the above employment of the means for exciting inflammation, advantage may be derived, from the union of some mild sedative and astringent medicine.

It is necessary we generally be seated, to pursue this mode of treatment; making such alterations in the regimen as will the improvement of the constitution, and the ability of the digestive organs, will admit of success attending; when the diet should be of the mildest description, even to a semi-convalescent has been established, service, considerable

risk of a reproduction of the inflammatory excitement will be incurred; as soon, ^{as possible}, however, without risking the danger of a relapse, long medicines, together with an invigorating diet, and wine, are to be employed; for few complaints leave behind them, more languor, and debility; at the same time, the necessity of strictly avoiding all the exciting causes, should be rigidly enjoined on the patient.

Such is the most approved practice recommended in the cure of Scalp & Scalpitis, "yet should it, from extraordinary obstinacy, or defective practice - says Professor Clappman, "prove refractory to the remedies mentioned, then a thorough mercurial course only can be trusted. All other modes of treatment, in confirmed Leprosy, are only feeble lampoonings, or dangerous temperings."

Should we wish the mercurial impression to be soon induced, we may employ mercury internally, as well as externally; and to make its effects the more certain, we may unite small portions of Opium with it. -

I have thus finished a short essay on
Acute Hepatitis; - and that it must be
deficient in perspicuity of style, and
imadorned with the elegance of language,
I am fully aware; but I believe, as
far as I have been able to obtain infor-
mation on the subject, it embraces the
true symptoms, pathology, and treatment of
the disease; and this is all I aimed at.

I will therefore conclude, by acknow-
ledging, How much I feel myself indebted
to the Professors of this University, individually,
for the valuable instruction received from
them, and that they may long enjoy,
the Honor, prosperity, and happiness so justly
due to their unrivalled exertions, in dissem-
inating Knowledge, so highly beneficial
to mankind, is my Siue Wish. -

